

## Classification of Reports<sup>1</sup>

Primary Reports		Secondary Reports	
<b>A</b>	Randomized controlled trial (RCT)	<b>M</b>	Meta-analysis or Systematic review
<b>B</b>	Cohort study		Decision analysis Cost-benefit analysis Cost-effectiveness study
<b>C</b>	Nonrandomized trial with concurrent or historical controls Case-control study Study of sensitivity and specificity of a diagnostic test Time series	<b>R</b>	Narrative review (Review article) Consensus statement Consensus report
<b>D</b>	Cross-sectional study Trend Study Case series Case report Before and after study	<b>X</b>	Medical opinion

Classifying studies and reports gives an initial picture of the type of studies and level of evidence available. It also helps organize the reports for critical appraisal. Once the study design is identified and classified, this classification is then recorded on the article's worksheet template.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted by the American Dietetic Association from ©Joint Commission Resources: "[A Practical Approach to Evidence Grading](#)" Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement 2000;Volume 26(12):707